



The MEA AND THE SAT: A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

	MEA	SAT
Time needed to administer	4+ school days	4 hours on a Saturday
Required for high school graduation	No	No
Recognition beyond Maine	No	Yes: the SAT is a nationally recognized achievement test
Required for college application	No	Yes: most institutions of higher education require the SAT, but not all
Required for college placement	No	Yes: in many cases, the SAT is used to establish a cut-off score for entry into credit-bearing college courses
Encourages increased post-secondary enrollments	No	Yes: a state-supported SAT score is one less obstacle standing between high school and college for many youth
Students are personally invested in the test	No	Yes: SAT scores can be used for college application and placement, and will likely enhance student motivation to do well on the test
Aligned with Maine's <i>Learning Results</i>	Yes: the MEA was designed to measure whether students are meeting Maine's learning standards	Yes: a recent review by the College Board showed a high degree of alignment with the MLR and the MEA
Students are specifically prepared in advance to take the test	Yes: LAS alignment and individual teacher coaching	Yes: high degree of MLR alignment and SAT–preparation services will be made available to all students
Meets NCLB reporting requirements	Yes	Yes
Direct costs for students/parents	None	None: the State will pay the testing fee (about \$40)
Long-term state costs	Test development and ongoing modification expenses; four days of teacher time; other ancillary costs	Testing fees; student transportation to and from testing center; other ancillary costs